



Department of Justice

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HOGSETT ANNOUNCES CHARGES AGAINST TWO EVANSVILLE MEN FOR BANK FRAUD

Local pair allegedly cashed more than \$40,000 in bad checks, purchased electronics

PRESS RELEASE

EVANSVILLE – Joseph H. Hogsett, the United States Attorney, announced today that Keenan L. Hankerson, age 34, and Keenon R. Perriman, age 22, both of Evansville, have been charged with bank fraud and entered petitions before Chief U.S. District Court Judge Richard L. Young to plead guilty.

“The United States Attorney’s Office is dedicated to ending the culture of corruption in this state, and this prosecution is testament to how seriously federal criminal justice treats issues of identity theft and bank fraud,” Hogsett said. “There is no such thing as small fraud, or acceptable fraud – if you engage in this type of behavior, you will be caught and you will be prosecuted.”

A federal information filed this week alleges that Hankerson and Perrimen solicited individuals who had recently-closed or unfunded bank accounts, paying them for their debit cards and pin numbers. The two would then allegedly deposit bad checks in the accounts, withdrawing the money before the worthless deposits were processed and discovered.

All told, the pair is alleged to have defrauded numerous local banks of more than \$42,000, including Fifth Third Bank, Old National Bank, Regions Bank, Evansville Federal Credit Union, Heritage Federal Credit Union, and Sterling United Federal Credit Union.

The information lists assets the federal government will attempt to seize from the defendants if their plea of guilty is accepted. These items, allegedly purchased with the money gained from the fraudulent activities, include a plasma screen television, a laptop computer, and Xbox 360 gaming console, and some currency.

This prosecution comes as Hogsett has made it a priority of the U.S. Attorney's Office in 2012 to aggressively combat corruption and fraud in central and southern Indiana.

According to Assistant U.S. Attorney Todd S. Shellenbarger, who is prosecuting the case for the government, the two defendants could each face up to 30 years in federal prison if they are found guilty, as well as fines of up to \$1 million. The case is the result of a collaborative investigation by the U.S. Secret Service and the Evansville Police Department.

An information is only a charge and is not evidence of guilt. All defendants are presumed innocent and are entitled to a fair trial at which the government must prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

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